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Date: September 30, 2003

  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hideyasu Yamabe  
Serial No. :  
Filing Date : (herewith)  
Title : FOLDING BICYCLE  
Group Art Unit. : Examiner :  
Attorney Docket : MM0725US (#90326)

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

**Claims Amendments**

1. (Original) A folding bicycle comprising:

a head pipe pivotally supported with respect to a main frame of a rod shape at a front end of the main frame so as to be rotatable in a plane including the main frame;

a front wheel fork and a handle shaft each inserted into and supported by the head pipe;  
a rear wheel rotatably supported on a rear end of the main frame;  
a saddle post having a saddle on top thereof and pivotally supported on a rear side of a pivotal-support portion of the head pipe;  
a stay detachably fixed at a top end thereof to the saddle post and pivotally supported on a front side of the rear wheel of the main frame;  
a crank gear rotatably supported between a pivotal-support portion of the saddle post and a pivotal-support portion of the stay;  
and a loop drive member looped over the crank gear and a small gear provided on the rear wheel,  
wherein the stay, the saddle post, and the handle shaft can be folded to be overlaid one another along the main frame.

2. (Original) The folding bicycle according to claim 1, wherein the crank gear mounted on the main frame is positioned rearward of an intermediate point between shafts of the front wheel and the rear wheel.

3. (Currently Amended) A folding bicycle comprising, instead of adopting a configuration that a head pipe for inserting therein a front wheel fork and a handle shaft is pivotally supported to a main frame as in the folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2]:

a head pipe fixed on a front end of a main frame;  
a fork for rotatably supporting a front wheel, the fork being supported below the head pipe;  
and  
a handle shaft above the head pipe, the handle shaft being rotatably supported to be able to undulate by a pivotal-support member provided on the main frame,

wherein when the handle shaft is raised by the pivotal-support member, a lower end of the handle shaft can be fit into an upper end of the fork supported by the head pipe.

4. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein instead of providing the pivotal-support member of the handle shaft on the main frame, the pivotal-support member is provided on an upper end of the head pipe, and a lower end of the handle shaft can be fit into an upper end of the fork supported by the head pipe.

5. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein instead of providing the pivotal-support member of the handle shaft on the main frame, the pivotal-support member is provided on an intermediate portion of the handle shaft, and the handle shaft can be bent by the pivotal-support member.

6. (Original) The folding bicycle according to claim 3, wherein the raised handle shaft and a shaft of the head pipe are offset, and a rotation transmitting mechanism for transmitting rotation of the handle shaft to the fork rotatably supported by the head pipe is provided between the offset shafts.

7. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the stay can be attached and detached to and from the saddle post via a suspension mechanism.

8. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], further comprising cylindrical sockets for fixing a handle, the sockets intersecting an upper end of the handle shaft in a manner of shaping a T, storing sockets attached to each side of the cylindrical sockets to extend along an axis in parallel with the handle shaft, and a handling member which has a grip and can be detachably attached to each of the socket.

9. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein each of the front wheel and the rear wheel has a cantilever structure and can be readily attached and detached to and from a free end side of a support shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) The folding bicycle according to claim 1 [or 2], further comprising a brake on each of the front wheel and the rear wheel, each brake having a brake shoe for contacting the wheel from outside, the brake shoe being provided to be rotatable about a shaft in parallel with rotation axes of the front wheel and the rear wheel, the brake shoe being pressed and contacted on an outer peripheral surface of each of the front wheel and the rear wheel by rotating in a direction opposite to a rotating direction of the front wheel and the rear wheel.